The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Three men may keep a secret if two of them are dead.—Benjamin Franklin.

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## UNIONS' REAR GUARD DEFENSE NECESSARY

Trade unionism differs from other movements. It must advance to fulfill its mission and it must wage a rear guard defense against privilege seekers and stealthy foes of liberty.

Other movements may serenely hold to their stated objectives. Thus can ignorance and superstition of courts, weakening of the law-making branch or wrongs against small nations.

Other movements may say: "Objection to these wrongs is foreign to our purpose." This the trade unionist can not do. His ideals and his instinct of self-preservation compel him to resist injustice, regardless of shape or form.

So-called "constructionists" outside our movement can not understand the unionist's militancy, his rear guard defense, his continuous attack against injustice.

But the unionist knows wrongs have a direct bearing on his individual progress. They will entangle him if he ignores them. He can only advance as the cause of freedom gains.

He dare not permit himself to be surrounded by those who would undermine principle or who would create a vicious precedent by wronging an individual. His strength is in his willingness to struggle for fundamentals that are his refuge in his hour of need.

He can not be guided by expediency. Each cause is unpopular until it is understood through education and agitation.

He must challenge every injunction judge, every attempt to handcuff labor to employment. He must arouse popular protest against child labor, to fatalities in industry and other anti-social conditions.

These rear guard defenses must continue while the frontal movement of organization, higher wages, improved working conditions and agitation for remedial legislation is carried on.

Our trade unions rest on a constructive foundation. Through collective bargaining the organized workers would gladly devote their energies to solving industrial problems.

But they can not ignore rear guard attacks. They must maintain a militant policy toward those who, by devious methods rather than open opposition, would undermine their structure and destroy their collective spirit.

## Accidents To Workers Increase; Drastic Penalties Are Suggested

Chicago, Feb. 12.—"We can not rely entirely upon employers to eliminate accidents because of the cost of workmen's compensation," declared John H. Walker, president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, in a speech on "Accident Prevention."

"The cost of workmen's compensation insurance has been absorbed as a cost of production," he said. "In the absence of scientific leadership for the prevention of accidents, employers continue to use their old methods. Consequently, workmen's compensation of itself has not been as effective in reducing accidents as it was hoped it would be. Accidents have been occurring undiminished. With industry speeding up, there has probably been an increase of accidents in the period workmen's compensation has been in force, all of which means that we must find more adequate means of preventing accidents.

**"If a man operates an automobile and negligently runs into a man and causes his death, he is frequently prosecuted for manslaughter. Is the employer, who negligently operates his factory or industrial plant, and as a result a person suffers a fatal injury, less culpable?**

**"Why not try criminal prosecutions as a method of inducing the adoption of safety methods? Prosecute for manslaughter in fatal cases and send them in cases of permanent disability. Amend the compensation laws so as to provide double or treble compensation where the accident was caused by failure to comply with safety laws. Work toward the end of a State monopoly with rates classified according to accident experience. That is, make compensation as expensive as possible for the one who has the accidents and the rate as low as possible for the firm with safety devices. Make factory inspection and mine inspection largely technical work. Pitiless publicity for all firms. Publish each firm's accident experience annually, making comparisons by industry. Tell the public who is having the accidents and who isn't. As well, tell prospective workers where the safe places to work are. Refuse permission to do business to firms having accident rates above a maximum determined."**

### CHILD AMENDMENT PASSED IN MONTANA

**Helena, Mont., Feb. 12.—Representative Lucy A. Curran, the only woman member of the State Assembly, has won her fight for the child labor amendment to the Federal Constitution.**

**The House approved the amendment by a vote of 78 to 18, and the Senate favored it by a vote of 30 to 21.**

**The Senate rejected the amendment last year.**

## BOOTLEGGING OF SEAMEN IS OPPOSED BY SENATORS

Washington, Feb. 12.—The Senate has approved the King bill which will stop bootlegging of immigrants and smuggling of Orientals to this country by shipping interests.

It is customary for vessels sailing to American ports to employ more seamen than necessary. The surplus is lost in the large American port cities. The King law provides that on departing from an American port if a vessel fails to carry the same number of seamen carried on arrival, clearance papers will be denied.

Persons classed as seamen, and who, on examination are found not to be seamen, shall be considered aliens and subject to the immigration law. If found inadmissable under that law the alien shall be deported "on a vessel other than that by which brought, at the expense of the vessel by which brought, and the vessel by which brought shall not be granted clearance until such expenses are paid or their payment satisfactorily guaranteed."

Vessel owners and those engaged in the traffic of Orientals opposed the bill, but discussion of the methods employed by the bootleggers revealed their purpose. With the cost placed on vessel owners of returning aliens alleged to be seamen they will be careful to ship only competent seamen and will arrive with no greater number than which they will depart from American ports.

The King bill has been urged by the International Seamen's Union for nearly a quarter of a century.

"American ship owners," said Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Union, "opposed the King bill, ostensibly speaking for themselves. As soon as the bill passed the Senate, foreign ship owners became busy in the opposition in the House. This proves that the American ship owners were speaking for the foreign ship owners.

"The bill will not apply to an American ship owner who signs his crew in a continental port of the United States. This fact should make it easy for anyone to locate the real opposition to this measure."

### COMMUNISTS BARRED FROM WAGE PARLEYS

New York, Feb. 12.—Raymond V. Ingersoll, impartial chairman of the cloak industry, has ordered the Industrial Council of Cloak and Suit Manufacturers to deal exclusively with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

The decision debars outlawed Communists from negotiating with these employers.

"This decision," said Morris Sigman, president of the international union, "clears the atmosphere. It will make employers realize they have but one group to deal with—the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union—instead of Communist adventurers who have been discredited by their conduct of the late 25-week disastrous strike."

## LABOR'S STRIKE RIGHT IS BEYOND COURT RULE

Denver, Feb. 12.—Judge Julian Moore has refused to order the Building Trades Council to desist from its opposition to a non-union contractor.

Union carpenters refused to work with unorganized carpenters, and the contractor sued for an injunction and $100,000 damages.

The court made short work of the case. After the plaintiff's attorney presented the usual Citizen's Alliance plea, Judge Moore rendered his decision without calling upon the defendants.

"A man has the right to work or quit work at any time, in his own determination," the court said. "An organization has the right to order its members to work or quit work, as it sees fit, so long as, in the execution of such order, there is no disturbance created or any law violated.

"A man has a right to belong to a union, or not to belong to a union, as he sees fit. If he joins a union he adopts their rules and regulations and agrees to abide by the decisions of the organization.

"The evidence in this case tends to show that the organization affiliated with the defendants' Building Trades Council refused to permit its members to work on this particular building, and that in so far as it goes the defendants had a right to do what was done."

## Carnegie Fund Kind To Mussolini; Democracy's Foe Well Advertised

New York, Feb. 12.—The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has printed in pamphlet form a defense of Fascism by Alfredo Rocco, Italian minister of justice. The defense is approved by Mussolini, and the pamphlet is circulated by New York Fascists who have organized the Italian Digest and News Service.

The Rocco statement is a denial of every ideal that a democratic people hold and revives the old Roman and later German theory that the individual exists for the state, rather than the state for the individual.

"For Fascism, society is the end, individuals the means, and its whole life consists in using individuals as instruments for its social ends," says Signor Rocco. "Individual rights are only recognized in so far as they are implied in the rights of the state.

"Our concept of liberty is that the individual must be allowed to develop his personality in behalf of the state."

Believers in democracy insist that liberty is a natural right, and precedes the state, which is Fascism that recognize Fascist principles, compulsory arbitration, outlawing of strikes and confiscation of the property of Italian emigrants who oppose the Mussolini system.

## IRON WORKERS GAIN; MANY FOES ROUTED

New York, Feb. 12.—Stout resistance by organized structural iron workers has dampened the ardor of union wreckers. The union has met a joint attack of secessionists and the employers' organization known as the Iron League. The latter sued the union for $5,000,000 and asked for an injunction. Despite these opposition, wages have been raised $4 a day and President Morrin announces the discontinuance of the $2 monthly assessment.

"Aside from meeting many disagreeable situations, which we have successfully combatted, we have made steady gains in the New York strike situation," President Morrin says. "We have narrowed the Iron League's activities to a small area in the downtown district of this city.

"Many of our members in the New York district who permitted themselves to be misled by secession agents now regret their action. This will also be the outcome of efforts made by disruptionists in the Middle West. District Council who have sought to mislead the membership of some of our Pacific Coast locals. They, like the New York secessionists, will fail. Many of their members realize their mistake and are endeavoring to get back into the International Association, where they belong.

"Despite attacks from inside and without, our organization has gained in wages, membership and finances since 1924. On January 1, 1924, our international funds totaled $98,229.15. On October 31, 1926, the total was $802,385.79, or a net gain of $604,-156.44.

"This should prove the solidity of our International Association. We believe our splendid showing has not been surpassed by any affiliate of the American trade union movement."

## EDUCATION IN AMERICA BEHIND CHINA'S UNREST

New York, Feb. 12.—The leaders of the present national movement in China were educated in the United States. Their aim is to end foreign influence in their country and to develop that nation according to their own ideas of culture.

The above is a summary of the Chinese situation, written by Eugene J. Young, foreign editor of the New York World.

"The Boxers tried to drive out foreigners so China could preserve its own culture; while the Nationalists now are trying to break the grip of foreigners so China can evolve freely as a modern nation with its own new culture. It is not another Soviet revolution stirred up by Russia. The movement started long before the Russian revolution; its chief inspiration is idealism absorbed by Chinese students in American institutions, and its leaders were educated in America, Britain and Japan.

"Japan's defeat of Russia in 1905 caused thousands of young Chinese to go to foreign lands to study how to convert China into a modern nation which would successfully confront the West.

"These modern leaders mostly have had modern education from the outside. There are many more who have studied abroad and absorbed ideas which have vastly changed China's outlook."

## DETROIT ANTI-UNION GROUP STUNG BY FEARLESS JUDGE

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 12.—Judge Edward J. Jeffries of the Recorder's Court maintained his reputation for fearlessness when he told the Citizen's Committee of the Board of Commerce that it must not "poke its nose" into functions of public officials.

It was the sharpest rebuff received by the Board of Commerce since these business men attempted, last fall, to tell churchmen that representatives of organized labor should not be permitted to speak in Detroit churches.

Judge Jeffries' ire was aroused when the case against a local trade union official was called. Two attorneys stepped before the judge. One represented the unionist, the other "the Citizen's Committee of the Board of Commerce."

The judge glowered at the latter, and asked:

"Since when has it become necessary for the people of the State of Michigan to call upon the Board of Commerce for help in the trial of its cases? What's the matter with the staff of the prosecuting attorney? Is it supposed to be capable of taking care of the business of the people?

"Since when," continued Judge Jeffries, "has the Board of Commerce usurped the right to poke its nose into the exclusive business of the State of Michigan? What right have you, do you think, in this case?

"I am here in behalf of the Citizen's Committee of the Board of Commerce," the attorney replied meekly.

"Well, you can tell your clients that they are not the Board of the State of Michigan in this court. Your presence here is an insult. Now you had better act fast and fade out of the picture."

Turning to the prosecutor, the court said:

"What is wrong with your office? Do you have to get help from the Board of Commerce? Is the Board of Commerce running your office? Get around there in front, where you belong, in place of the attorney for the Board of Commerce, and take care of the business of the people."

## LONG HOURS REJECTED; WOULD LET MILLS MOVE

Providence, R. I., Feb. 12.—Textile workers refuse to be frightened by threats that the Manville-Jenckes Company will move south if hours are not increased. The workers serve this notice on the company:

"The textile workers of Rhode Island will never consent to an increase in working hours. If the Manville-Jenckes Company insists that the work day be lengthened in order to make a profit, they have our permission to move their mills out of Rhode Island. The present working week of 48 hours must stand."

The company management pleads for co-operation between all concerned, but the textile workers point out that when conferences are held with local business interests and the company, employes are not invited.

"The workers are never consulted—they are just hired and fired," said Thomas F. McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers. The union official declared that the workers desire to co-operate, but are rebuffed by the management.

"Workers in the Manville-Jenckes Company can produce as much in 48 hours as any mill in the South can produce in 54 hours. Exploitation of Southern mill workers, through long hours and low wages, can not continue. I am sure these workers will soon come into their own," Mr. McMahon said.

## POLICEMEN'S CLUB FAILS IN NICARAGUA

New York, Feb. 12.—Any attempt to play policeman in the internal affairs of Latin America is both un-American and dangerous, declared Senator Shipstead, speaking at an open forum in this city.

The Minnesota lawmaker favored a Central American Federation and the development of friendship between the United States and these countries. This policy, he said, was dictated both by sentiment and by practical policy.

Senator Shipstead was sarcastic when he answered a statement by Adolfo Diaz, now president of Nicaragua, is "an able, responsible business man."

"Diaz has shown great ability in getting elected president of Nicaragua and in making friends with the State Department and the American marines. He was formerly employed by a Pittsburgh corporation at a salary of $1,000 a year," Senator Shipstead said.

### FAVOR OLD AGE PENSION

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 12.—An old-age pension bill has been introduced in the State Assembly by Representative Soderstrom. A tax levy of 1½ mills to build the fund is proposed. Pensions would be distributed by the State Industrial Commission.

Mr. Soderstrom led labor's successful fight in the last State Assembly for anti-injunction legislation.

## "HEATHEN CHINESE" BAR STRIKEBREAKERS

New York, Feb. 12.—Strike-breakers are barred by the Commissioner of Commerce and Labor at Canton, China. The rule will be passed upon by the Kuomintang provincial executive committee, according to the Cantonese official publicity bureau.

The reason for barring strike-breakers is that "a strike of workers aim at improvement in working conditions or pay. If the owners get new employes the strike would have serious complications."

If an employer would close his factory, the workers must be given one month's notice, because "the workers usually live from hand to mouth and mostly have no savings to fall back on if thrown out of employment."

## HIGHER LIVING COSTS IN CITIES PREDICTED

New York, Feb. 12.—Increased living costs and demands of labor to maintain this increase was predicted by Carl Snyder, economist of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, at a meeting of dry goods merchants.

Prices will rise in the cities, Mr. Snyder said, largely because of the steady drift of the farm population to urban centers. Since 1920 2,500,000 persons have left the farm, resulting in a decrease of active farm workers by possibly 8 to 10 per cent.

A brighter side of the speaker's prophecy was the assertion that labor unrest, because of high costs of living, should not halt for long the steady improvement in material prosperity which this country has experienced for 50 years. This improvement in living conditions he ascribed to the amazing development of machinery and mass production. He said that the next 50 years will see new machinery developed, invented and produced in quantity at about the same gait as in the last half century.

### MINE SYSTEMS DIFFER

Indianapolis, Feb. 12.—"The problems of European mine workers are many and are, perhaps, more difficult than ours," reported delegates from the United Mine Workers to the Miners' International Federation.

"We do not like to speak in the spirit of criticism," the report states, "but their sliding scale agreements bind members of the European organizations eternally to impoverished conditions of employment and low wages.

"The antiquated system of mining, together with other difficulties encountered in production of coal materially increases the cost of production."

## STATE COSSACK BILL BASED ON AUTOCRACY

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 12.—Organized labor is opposing a State Cossack bill that has been introduced in the Missouri Legislature.

The act would place this military force above local authority and establish a military dictatorship, under the guise of "law and order."

"While more advanced minds in Missouri are fighting at the State capitol for home rule for cities, the State police bill is a move in the opposite direction," says the Promotional League Bulletin.

"The constabulary bill would create a military autocracy, clothed with power to come into any community, declare an 'emergency' exists, override duly elected officers and administer law according to the whim of an overlord who is given the title 'superintendent of State police.'

"The superintendent is to be appointed by the Governor and removable only by the Governor. This puts the powerful military force under the political control of whomever happens to be Governor of Missouri.

"If our law-enforcement machinery is inadequate, the remedy is to increase the man power, capacity and equipment of established police agencies. But to adopt a State police system would be like removing one's head to cure the toothache."

## MINERS STAND PAT AGAINST WAGE CUT

Indianapolis, Feb. 12.—No wage reduction in the bituminous fields declared the United Mine Workers' convention, after empowering a central competitive field scale committee to negotiate a new contract. The competitive field comprises Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and western Pennsylvania. The miners' committee will meet the coal operators at Miami, February 14, where the present contract that was adopted at Jacksonville three years ago.

President Lewis made the claim of the United States Bureau of Mines that more than 70 per cent of the nation's soft coal is mined by non-unionists.

### TAX PAYMENTS DODGED

Oklahoma City, Feb. 12.—In a message to the State Legislature, Governor Johnson has charged that northern corporations doing business in Oklahoma who pay practically no license tax.

"The hour has come," the Governor said, "to cease public discrimination in favor of the rich, the powerful and the strong, who by their ability to employ skilled bookkeepers, power or cunning legal representatives, obtain special consideration and protection through the influences of the lobby."

## NICARAGUA FACTS NOT REVEALED WHEN LAW MAKERS TAKE STAND

Washington, Feb. 12.—Approval by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Government's Nicaragua policy without any information from the State Department "is a most remarkable proceeding," declared Congressman Connally of Texas on the floor of the House. The members of the committee for this information was denied, Mr. Connally said.

**"The Congress ought to know what American lives were imperiled. It ought to know what American property was damaged or injured or threatened. So far as this House knows, no American citizen has been imperiled so far as we know, not one dollar of American property has been damaged.**

"We ought to know what American corporations are active in the politics of Nicaragua. We ought to know how many neutral zones have been established. We ought to know why and where they were established. We ought to know if American marines are being employed to protect American lives or are being employed to protect Diaz from the wrath of his own people.

"The Committee on Foreign Affairs has closed its ears and eyes. It wants no facts. It remains to be seen whether this House will in blindness and deafness approve the committee's action. I challenge the committee to bring its resolution on the floor of the House. Let them bring it out into open debate."

Congressman Connally said the United States will fail to develop a spirit of Pan-Americanism by a policy that generates suspicion.

This spirit would, he said, "constitute a vast reservoir of sympathy and support for the United States in any situation that may arise in the future."

### STEREOTYPERS GAIN

Portsmouth, Ohio, Feb. 12.—Stereotypers employed on local newspapers raised wages $5 a week. A two-year contract has been signed.

## WOMEN'S LAW ATTACKED; BOSSES SCARE PUBLIC

Boston, Feb. 12.—Organized labor in this State is aroused by the widespread attack on the 48-hour law for women and minors. This is the fourth attempt in as many years that the Arkwright Club, an organization of textile employers, would nullify the act.

Long work-day advocates have prepared the stage by their claims in mill towns that it is impossible for New England to compete with the long-hour system of the South.

## SIMON O'DONNELL DEAD

Chicago, Feb. 12.—Simon O'Donnell of the Plumbers' Union and former president of the local Building Trades Council, died in this city of heart disease. He was well known in the national trade union movement.

### WOMEN'S EIGHT-HOUR LAW APPROVED IN ARIZONA

Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 12.—The State Senate has approved a bill limiting the work week of women to 48 hours. Sentiment in the House is strong for the bill.

### TEXTILE WAGES CUT

Concord, N. C., Feb. 12.—Wages of textile workers in the Cannon mills are lowered by increasing the number of machines for each operator. This speeding up has made their average maximum weekly wage $27.85. Half time and lay-offs are not included.

### FIREMEN RAISE WAGES

New York, Feb. 12.—Wage increases amounting to $3,000,000 a year have been secured by eastern members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen. The dispute was adjusted through mediation machinery created by the new Watson-Parker law. This is the first mediation victory of the act. Former disputes have been carried to an arbitration board.

### WHITE PLAGUE NOT ROUTED

New York, Feb. 12.—For the first time since 1917 the tuberculosis death rate in this city failed to decline last year, according to the New York Tuberculosis and Health Association.

## HIGH WAGES IS BASE OF WIDE PROSPERITY

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 12.—"The workers' purchasing power must keep pace with their increasing power to produce," said William Green, president of the A. F. of L., at the Trades Council Forum.

"In fact, our wage level should always be above the productivity of industry," the unionist said. "The success and prosperity of our nation must rest upon the people's consuming power."

President Green decided that labor can not be classed as a commodity, "compared with products manufactured by machinery" in industry. Labor is life, because workers give their lives and their minds when they work.

"The objective of labor is a higher and a better life. This purpose can not be realized except through the power and influence of collective action."

## CHILD RIGHTS IGNORED; ALL EYES ON PROPERTY

Toledo, Ohio, Feb. 12.—"This nation can legislate on all sorts of matters except those that touch on the sacred rights of property," said Rev. Paul Macy, Congregational minister, in a plea to end child labor.

"We get excited over all sorts of problems that don't affect the pocketbook," he said.

"We can send battleships and marines to protect our property rights in Nicaragua, and we can make the Monroe Doctrine stand on its head. All this is in the interest of a few investors. But we can not legislate, we can not use our Federal powers, to prevent the exploitation of children. It is not any idea that property rights should be unprotected. It is not so much what is done as what is not done."

### TRUST BUSTING PAYS

New York, Feb. 12.—Standard Oil stockholders have not been injured by the Supreme Court's dissolution decision in 1912 which dissolved the Standard Oil Company. The court held that the corporation violated the anti-trust law. Stockholders in the various units have seen their principal increase 700 per cent. The average annual income during the 15 years was more than 16 per cent.

### TYPOS RENEW CONTRACT

Minneapolis, Feb. 12.—The Typographical Union has renewed its contract with newspaper publishers. Wages remain the same but work conditions are improved.

## POISONED PAINTER WINS UNUSUAL CASE

San Francisco, Feb. 12.—General President MacDonald of the California State Building Trades Council reports an unusual lead poisoning case which resulted in compensation to a Sacramento painter.

An outside paint consisting of white lead, linseed oil and a turpentine thinner was used. The painter mixed the color oil to evaporate, leaving a chalky surface of fine particles of paint and pigment.

Lead poisoning occurred when the painter first brushed off the painted surface, and in so doing caused clouds of dust. As there was no breeze at the time the chalky substance would hang in the heavy atmosphere and was inhaled by the painter. When the facts were developed the insurance company accepted responsibility for lead poisoning.

In previous cases of lead poisoning the evidence generally showed that the poison was worked into the system out of the wet paint used by workers. The present decision creates a precedent, and President MacDonald suggests that painters keep this case in mind.

## PRISON LABOR SCORED; "PAPER" PROFIT SHOWN

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 12.—Successful management of the industries at Sing Sing State prison, which, it is charged by the Federation of Labor, is discounted, says Assemblyman Goodrich in a letter to Governor Smith, following a personal investigation.

Citing the claim that the first three months of the present year showed a profit of $43,000 in Sing Sing, as compared with $40,000 in 1925-26, Mr. Goodrich says the figures disregard numerous items of expense. Among them, he says, are $6,080 for workmen's compensation, a loss of $11,000 through the closing of the shoe shop, $11,000 for constructions and $6,000 for coal and royalties on shoe machinery.

### WOULD OUTLAW STRIKES

Boston, Feb. 12.—A bill has been introduced in the State Legislature "for the better protection of the public welfare" and to prevent unwarranted strikes and lockouts."

The proposal would practically outlaw work suspensions.

### OLD-TIME UNIONIST DIES

Fort Worth, Texas, Feb. 12.—James A. Gowen, old-time unionist and member of the Journeymen Stone Cutters' Association of North America, died in this city. He served on the executive board of his international organization for many years.